

Minutes
Green Action Team
February 6, 2007, 1:30-3:30
California Energy Commission, Hearing Room A
1516 9th Street, Sacramento CA 95814

PURPOSE: **Green Action Team Meeting – 2007 Planning**

ATTENDEES: Rosario Marin, Secretary, SCSA (Chair)
Jackie Pfannenstiel, Commissioner, CEC
Dian Grueneich, Commissioner, CPUC
Dan Emmett, Chair Real Estate Industry Leadership Council (REILC)
Will Bush, Interim Director, DGS
Will Semmes, Director, California Conservation Corps; Resources Agency
Theresa Parsley, CalEPA
Erik Skinner, OSE
Karen Finn, Department of Finance

Other attendees: Dr. Sawyer, Chair, California Air Resources Board

Not in attendance: BT&H Agency

TOPICS: **Welcome and Introductions - Rosario Marin**

Overview:

Roy McBrayer presented overall program progress, gaps and possible 2007 objectives:

- So far, efforts on the Green Building Initiative (GBI) have been concentrated primarily in State buildings. Achievements include the development of tools and techniques to improve the energy and resource efficiency of State facilities, a demonstration of the State's commitment to sustainable building practices, and the establishment of cooperative efforts among various public sector organizations such as the UC/CSU/CCC, counties and municipalities.
- Areas where the GAT should consider reinforcing efforts include:
 - The development of a tool to track and report progress toward GBI goals, including benchmarking and the establishment of a 2003 baseline.
 - An assessment of the adequacy of activities such as the efforts to encourage commercial buildings to participate in GBI goals, the implementation of energy efficiency (EE) projects, and the installation of on-site clean generation.
 - The formation of a strategy to overcome resource challenges like the lack of project start-up funding.
 - An analysis of the potential for program integration for example, aligning GBI activities with the Climate Change Initiative.
- Possible 2007 objectives:
 - Creating a workgroup to establish a tracking, measuring reporting mechanism.
 - Addressing barriers to commercial building adoption (Real Estate Industry Leadership Council).

- Leveraging the GAT's "convening authority" to identify and address weaknesses and barriers, contribute to planning activities (ie. CPUC EE program planning), and promote networking and collaboration with external organizations.
- Ensuring follow-through with State building objectives.
- Sponsoring groundbreaking projects and initiatives that advance GBI goals.

Dr. Michael Siminovitch, Director of the California Lighting Technology Center at the University of California at Davis, gave a short presentation on a potential groundbreaking project to install next generation task lighting in office building workspaces. This project has the potential of demonstrating a reduction of up to 50 percent in electrical loads while improving the overall quality of task lighting. The CLTC, California Energy Commission Public Interest Energy Research Program (PIER) and the Green Action Team are collaborating on this effort to initiate a demonstration project that showcases advanced technology.

Summary of Discussion Items

Benchmarking:

State and commercial buildings require different approaches to benchmarking. The efforts of the Energy Efficiency Committee Benchmarking workgroup should continue. State agencies need to assign someone responsible for completing benchmarking in their respective agency. The IOU energy efficiency programs have channeled funding into commercial building benchmarking efforts but the challenge of motivating building owners and occupants to want to benchmark their buildings remains. Work continues with the CPUC and Utility company program managers to address this challenge. The Energy Efficiency Committee was asked to provide a report at the next GAT meeting on progress toward completing the benchmarking of State buildings by the end of 2007.

Overall Program Progress: The IOU's are spending over \$700 million a year on Energy Efficiency programs. The current 3-year program funding cycle includes a number of partnerships between utilities and government organizations. However, the GAT does not know if this funding level is sufficient to meet the goals of the EO. We need to know whether we are on target for State, commercial, and institutional buildings. Establishing "sub-targets" that contain 2-year goals will provide early feedback on how well current efforts are working. Also, especially for commercial buildings, we should have a cohesive message and coordinated methodology. The CPUC will be holding a formal proceeding this year to address how their 2009-12 program funding cycle and inputs are needed on how it should be structured to achieve GBI goals. Input was requested from the Real Estate Industry Leadership Council on this as it relates to commercial buildings in general. Roy McBrayer will follow up with Dan Emmett on this.

Measuring, Tracking and Reporting: The GAT needs a mechanism for measuring, tracking and reporting on progress. A similar need to integrate measurement, tracking and reporting exists between the GBI and the Climate Change Initiative. It was suggested that this should be a coordinated effort, however funding is an issue. A suggestion was made to form a workgroup to address the development of this mechanism. The Financing and Execution and Green Building Committees were requested to jointly address this issue and report back to the GAT.

REILC Input and general discussion on how to increase commercial building adoption of EE goals: Most large commercial building owners, approximately 20% of the total commercial sector, have embraced the goals of the GBI. Efforts to date to reach the owners of smaller buildings have primarily consisted of education and outreach programs. Full participation among private sector building owners may require mandates since voluntary efforts do not appear to be working. Buyers, lenders and municipalities may need to drive incentives and mandates. Appliance standards and

building codes need to be elevated. The California Building Standards Commission has recently adopted new code changes developed by the CEC that strengthen standards for green buildings. Our efforts should work hand-in-hand with these standards.

We may need legislation that requires buildings to be benchmarked and retrofitted to meet efficiency standards whenever they change hands. IOU incentives should help pay for base measures, which could overcome some of the opposition to investing in EE improvements. The ultimate target of the GBI's objectives is all commercial and institutional buildings, yet no mandate exists for commercial buildings. The State should establish funding priorities for EE programs, allowing for at least 4-5 year paybacks. An Executive Forum will take place on Monday March 12, prior to the Green California Summit and Exposition to address strategies for increasing commercial building participation in EE programs. The Chair of the REILC was encouraged to attend the March 12 Executive Forum and address this issue.

Climate Change – AB 32: There is an intersection between the GBI and the Climate Change Initiative with EE being the number one activity for both. Benchmarking for the GBI looks similar to the GHG benchmarking of the Climate Registry so we should coordinate the two efforts. Behavior modification is one way to achieve considerable energy savings – for example, simply turning off the lights when vacating a room or building.

**DECISIONS,
COMMITMENTS
ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Secretary Marin requested the Energy Efficiency Committee give a report at the next GAT meeting on progress toward the benchmarking of all State buildings by the end of 2007.
2. Secretary Marin requested the REILC provide input on strategies for encouraging commercial building owners to implement Energy Efficiency in their buildings.
3. The Financing and Execution Committee and Green Building Committee were requested to jointly address how we develop and fund the establishment of a measurement, tracking and reporting mechanism for assessing progress on EO goals.
4. The Chair of the REILC was encouraged to participate in the Executive Forum that will take place on March 12, prior to the March 13/14 Green California Summit and Exposition.
5. The GAT agreed that the GHG benchmarking for the Climate Change Initiative should be coordinated with the benchmarking of energy usage for the Green Building Initiative. Roy McBrayer will follow up with the Climate Change Initiative on this.

NEXT MEETING:

The next GAT meeting will be in approximately 2-months. The Date, time and place will be announced by email and posted on the green-California web site: www.green.ca.gov.